

Kazakhstan and the United States of America in the promotion of our strategic partnership, and announce our commitment to promote stability, prosperity and democratic reforms in Central Asia and outside of the region." The joint statement also stipulates the U.S. support for Kazakhstan's plan for accession to the group of the 50 most competitive countries in the world, according to the strategy of President Nursultan Nazarbaev, and for Kazakhstan's membership in the WTO. The document recognizes Kazakhstan's leadership in regional integration, considering its significant contributions in Eurasia and Afghanistan. The joint statement outlined a number of directions of the bilateral cooperation underlining "we announce our intention to further strengthen our strategic partnership via strengthening strategic dialogues on energy, military collaboration, trade, investments and democratization. We express solid confidence that our enhanced strategic partnership will assist to security, prosperity and democracy development in the 21st century."

President Nursultan Nazarbayev has called for a massive transformation of Kazakhstan's political life and strengthening the country's move to democracy in a March 2006 speech to the first session of the State Commission. The priorities include significant strengthening of the role of the national Parliament, increasing the numbers of deputies in both houses of Parliament; continuing the introduction of elections of akims—mayors—at district levels, and the introduction of a bill on local self-government. "Democracy is the choice of civilized people, and it is our choice too," President Nazarbayev said.

Mr. Speaker, because of Kazakhstan's peaceful transition to democracy, its strong commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons, and her strong support for our country in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, I rise today to congratulate all her people on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of their independence.

H.R. 4766, ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

### HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006. H.R. 4766 will help to preserve all the indigenous languages that are still being spoken.

It is estimated that only 20 indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050. Providing grants to Native American language programs consisting of language nests, survival schools, and restoration programs will help to preserve this important part of our Nation's history and culture.

By encouraging a greater focus on Native language programs, we are not only striving to preserve the identity of the Nation's tribes, but we're encouraging greater academic performance among Native American students as well. H.R. 4766 requires that Native American language survival schools work toward a goal of all students achieving both fluency in a Na-

tive American language and academic proficiency in mathematics, reading (or language arts), and science. It is my intention that students in survival school programs demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to their appropriate grade level.

It is also my intention that the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans administer this program in such a way that Native American survival school grantees be required to obtain parental permission for students to enroll in the survival schools. Parents should be able to make decisions about their children's education, and H.R. 4766 provides Native American parents with new opportunities to do so.

### INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY

#### HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU) will be hosting an International Symposium on Democracy and Congress this December 8 through 10, 2006 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The DPU is a non-government organization established in 2005 for the purpose of enhancing stronger ties among members of parliaments around the Pacific Rim. DPU's goals are to train young leaders to install democracy in their own countries, to consolidate democracy and to compromise on regional differences.

This year's symposium will attract participants from Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the Republic of China and other countries. Participants will discuss such topics as the workings of congresses, presidential systems, and prospects for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will find the time to go to Taiwan to participate in the symposium and to visit with the leaders in Taiwan regarding bilateral relations, the war on terror, and the crisis in the Korean peninsula.

Also, I offer my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu for putting this symposium together. I applaud her leadership.

### HONORING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE BY FIDELITY ASSOCIATES INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fidelity Associates Insurance and Financial Services for their 100 years of service to Spokane, Washington. Fidelity Associates is one of the Inland Northwest's largest locally owned, independent insurance agencies, and one of its richest in terms of history and tradition. Fidelity Associates is a family-owned business and has the distinction of being one of the few to be passed from the hands of the third generation to those of a fourth.

In 100 years, this proud company has become a leader in the insurance world. From humble roots, it has grown to manage premiums in excess of \$40,000,000. This places Fidelity in the top 5 percent of all United States insurance agencies. Its employees are directly involved with over 8,500 clients through risk management, insurance, employee benefits and financial services. On top of all this, the employees of Fidelity Associates post thousands of hours toward community service each year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Fidelity Associates Insurance and Financial Services, the Jones Family, and the exemplary employees for their 100 remarkable years of service to our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this company and the family which has led it for so long.

### A TRIBUTE TO THE HILLIARD DAVIDSON WILDCATS, THE 2006 OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

#### HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations and adulations to the 2006 Hilliard Davidson Wildcats football team, which on Saturday, December 2, earned the title of State Champions in the Division I Ohio State Football Playoffs, and finished its storybook season a perfect 15–0.

No superlative or tired sports cliché can effectively capture the magic of the Wildcats' season. Consistently overlooked and routinely outsize by its opponent, week after week, Davidson utilized its underdog role, its unglamorous but methodical offense, and its blistering defense to knock off yet another favored adversary. Davidson won with discipline, with heart, and perhaps most importantly, with class and dignity.

Quietly, Davidson has amassed a 73–25 record under the leadership of Coach Brian White, and has firmly asserted itself as a premier, dynastic program in central Ohio. However, each year, Davidson and other central Ohio high school football programs are largely ignored by the football experts and pundits, and relegated to the shadows of storied, goliath programs in the northeast and southwest parts of the state.

This year, however, one by one, the Goliaths fell to David—or in this case, Davidson. In its heart-stopping, double overtime victory on Saturday, Davidson fully entrenched itself in the hearts and minds of central Ohio football fans, and served notice to high school football aficionados across the State and Nation that Hilliard Davidson is second to no one.

Throughout its historic championship run, Hilliard Davidson represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness, and dignity—and its storybook season will be recounted for generations to come in central Ohio.

I could not be more proud than to represent Hilliard Davidson High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made 2006 such a memorable one.